



FROM BEHIND THE SERVICE COUNTER

The Art of Backing Up

Lately we've had a rash of clients that have been storing their pictures, documents and videos on an external drive to free up room on their computer. And we cringe.

Almost everyone that appears at our Service Counter reminds us how important their pictures and personal documents are. And then we learn that they have them stored on USB drives or external USB drives, but not on their primary hard drives.

The problem is that the external storage devices are prone to failure and if the only copy of the data is on those devices, then these clients are placing themselves in imminent danger.

The USB drives are great for transferring files, but we strongly warn that they can stop functioning at any time. They can be stepped on, dropped in liquid, get zapped in a computer by an electrical surge, be easily lost or simply suffer physical damage. The USB external backup drives are also subject to similar damage but because they have moving parts, even more so!

Bottom line, the concept of backup is to have the original file on your computer and then, yes, a copy on your backup drive. If you need to free up hard drive space, we'd suggest that you burn (and verify) the files to a CD/DVD and them tucked away in a safe and secure spot.

People tend to be obsessed with the potential of electronic data loss. They worry about files that have been damaged by a virus or inadvertently deleted. Unfortunately, most neglect to think about fire, theft or physical damage that can occur if something is dropped or slammed accidentally. If the data suddenly becomes "unavailable", what preparation has been taken to get you back up and running and how quickly does that need to happen?

The cost of your backup regime is typically proportionate to the value the data has to you. Pictures of a lost relative might be invaluable, so spending top dollar to secure it may not be unreasonable whereas backing up music that can be readily replaced would not.

That you should have a backup is indisputable. But if you are confused or uncertain as to what method is best for you, give us a call at 613-748-3567. We will gladly find you a great solution to meet your needs.

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